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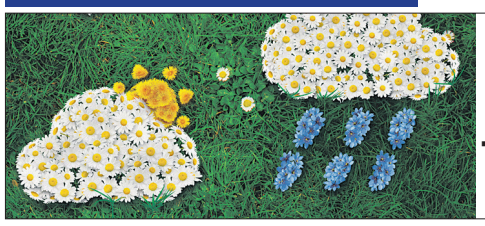

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Cherubs world premier in Haliburton

Read about Ctrl-ART-Del's dazzling production of *Cherubs* on page 2.

Wild Game Dinner returns

See photos of the first HHOA Wild Game Dinner in two years on page 3.

Hawks alumni soar at Nationals

Three former HHSS Red Hawks that competed in the college curling championship. See page 8.

Screwtape brokers a deal with the angels on how to get back into heaven during the Canadian Premiere of Toby McShane's dark comedy, Cherubs, premiered Friday. Mar. 31 and Saturday, Apr. 1 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Directed by Tim Nicholson, the story follows Montmartre and Gottlieb, two disgraced angels, and their efforts to get themselves back into heaven. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

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Gottlieb listens to see if his fish is still alive in its bowl. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

Gottlieb (played by Alexander Koot) looks over some drugs his buddy Jasper (played by Andrew Case) brought over to his place.

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Ctrl-ART-Del's world premiere of *Cherubs* shines

JERELYN CRADEN
Special to *County Life*

> *Theatre at its best is made up of innovative new ideas. It pushes the envelope and challenges the status quo.*
>
> — Ctrl-ART-Del's website

Without hoopla or fanfare, something momentous took place on March 31/April 1 at the Northern Lights Pavilion – the launch of Haliburton's new millennial-based theatre company, Ctrl-ART-Del, its world premiere of *Cherubs*, a wickedly dark comedy by British playwright, Toby McShane, and the directorial debut of local veteran theatre actor and producer, Tim Nicholson.

"I've been working in theatre a long time," Nicholson said, "the last few years primarily in Haliburton, and I noticed that the young people cast in major roles in the county were from out of town. Young locals weren't being given opportunities to be on stage. Getting older, I realized the need for younger people to be able to step into my shoes when I decide not to work on stage anymore."

Last July, Nicholson felt compelled to do something about it. He drew together a group of young talented local actors: Amy Leis, Andrew Case, Kelsey Crowe, Alexander Kocot and Hannah Klose who, with himself as artistic director and mentor, founded Ctrl-ART-Del in Haliburton. The new theatre company's name springs from the action of pressing three computer keys together to reboot an operating system: Ctrl-ALT-Del. The company's goal is to hit refresh/restart on theatre in the county by producing contemporary works centered on young and working age adults as cast, crew, and audience.

"We want to promote contemporary theatre," Nicholson said. "Anything written after 2010, very current. We're looking for new works, published/unpublished pieces. We're willing to workshop. We're talking about doing scene study and character workshops over the course of the summer for people who want to get involved and don't know how to get started."

Straight from their website at: www.ctrlartdel.ca, "Theatre at its best is made up of innovative new ideas. It pushes the envelope and challenges the status quo." And that's exactly what the team delivered with their first production of Cherubs. Fresh, edgy, performed with high energy and comic panache, four young actors: Kelsey Crowe, Alexander Kocot, Amy Leis, and Andrew Case brought it home.

Imagine …

In an old farmhouse set amongst the hedgerows of Southeast England, (set designed and built by Nicholson) two disgraced angels, Montmartre and Gottlieb, plot to get back into Heaven. However, their negligence puts them at loggerheads with a new supervisor, Screwtape.

An attempt to cover up a serious act of unscrupulous bureaucratic behavior puts Montmartre and Gottlieb at risk of permanent exile, but Screwtape's self-interest offers them a lifeline. If successful, her scheme could return all three to Heaven. If not, it could totally wipe out humanity. The scheme – blackmail God.

Amy Leis who developed the character of ultra buttoned-down, Screwtape, in a U.K. workshop of McShane's early script, delivered a stand-out performance capturing every comical nuance on the palette.

Andrew Case as Jasper, rounded out the fine comic performances in the four-hander play, with Kelsey Crowe (as Montmarte) and Alexander Kocot (as Gottlieb) setting the tone from lights up to sparking McShane's edgy comedy throughout. Nicholson's direction impressed, and as Artistic Director, producer and founding member, he has pointed Ctrl-ART-del in the right direction – toward a future of fresh, cutting-edge, contemporary shows made by and produced for young and working-age adults who will get their chance to come aboard and take the stage!

Behind the scenes support was provided by: Sandy Slote, stage manager, Hannah Klose and Kendra Korpela, assistant stage managers, Tasha Willis, lighting technician, and front of house team: Emily Klose, Jennifer Jackson-Korpela, and Quinn Salverda.

For more Ctrl-ART-Del information, news, and opportunities visit: www.ctrlartdel.ca

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Return of HHOA's Wild Game Dinner

A group of friends are all smiles before dinner is served during the first Wild Game Dinner and Auction held since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic on Saturday, Apr. 1 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129. The menu this year included venison, bear, moose, boar, buffalo, and rainbow trout. Funds raised from the 50/50 draw will go towards supporting the fish hatchery, stocking of local lakes, walleye spawning rehabilitation programs,and other HHOA initiatives. /TIM YANO Special to *County Life*

The Haliburton Legion was full of hungry attendees of the HHOA Wild Game Dinner and Auction.

Volunteers served up delicious food.

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Storm heads to OMHA Championship

The U13 Highland Storm Walkers Heating and Cooling team hit the road for the final OMHA Championship in Barrie on Thursday, March 30. The team lost after game four, but had a successful season. /Submitted

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County Life

What's happening at Point in Time?

Update on Services and Supports

We are continuing to offer mental health and counselling supports in person at our offices or the Youth Hub, virtually via zoom or by phone. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and appointments are available as needed after hours as well.

We offer Quick Access Clinics where individuals or families can be seen quickly by calling (705) 457-5345 or texting (705) 854-0576 to set up an appointment. We are open for crisis calls from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and work with another agency, 310 COPE, to provide after hours coverage. We work together to ensure around-the-clock crisis supports. For after hours crisis support, please call or text 310-COPE at 1-855-310-2673.

Youth Hub Update

We have a new opportunity for youth aged 12-15 years old to attend drop-ins at the Youth Hub on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Rides are available - text or call 705-457-2727.

On Saturday, Mar. 11, youth and their families had the opportunity to learn about traditional plant medicines and candle making. Everyone had the opportunity to make a candle and a room spray. We are so grateful for the knowledge we all gained about traditional plant medicines and their importance. Thanks Robyn, from Indigenously Infused! For more details on these events and to view the Hub's April calendar, check out our Instagram page @halicountyyouthhub.

Early Intervention - Ages and Stages

Would you like to learn more about your child's development and whether they are on track? We can review the Ages and Stages Questionnaire with you. ASQ is a series of 20 questionnaires that correspond to age intervals from birth to six years. Each questionnaire contains simple questions about activities, observations of what the child is (or is not) yet doing. The answers are scored and help to determine whether your child's development is on schedule or whether they should be referred for a developmental checkup with staff at Point in Time.

Sessions will be at Archie Stouffer, Minden on April 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and JDH Elementary in Haliburton from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 26. To register to complete and discuss a questionnaire, let staff know at an EarlyON Program location, or call (705) 306-9098 (Minden), or (705) 306-9099 (Haliburton).

Upcoming Community Education Series

The Haliburton County Mental Health and Substance Use Working Group is developing an exciting and free community education series for service providers and members of the public in the County on April 18 (online), May 16 (online) and June 27 (in person).

This series is for service providers or community members who want to get involved in fostering a compassionate and evidence-based approach to substance use and mental health in Haliburton County.

Community members can sign up for the full series or single sessions as they choose. Please visit our website, www.pointintime.ca, for more details and registration information.

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Avoid avoidable food waste

APARNA GOPALA KRISHNAN

Special to *County Life*

Food waste is a major issue: food we throw away ends up in landfills, and at the same time hunger and food insecurity is a growing challenge. Have you ever thought how much food we are wasting? Nearly 60 per cent of all food produced is wasted in Canada. Most of the food we throw out is considered "avoidable food waste."

What is avoidable food waste? Avoidable food waste are foods and beverages, that are consumable, but are discarded because they were unwanted (like potato peels—those could be eaten), spoiled foods items like cucumbers that have gone mushy in plastic wrap, or food that has passed its "best before date" like ketchup.

Here are some tips to reduce avoidable food waste.

First thing, how do we prevent food waste in our homes? Plan your meal ahead of time, check your pantry and fridge for what you have on hand, and then make a shopping list. Only buy what you need. Be smart about sales, don't try to over buy food you may not actually eat. If you cannot eat three cucumbers in one week, then don't buy three of them. Keep a log of food you throw away in a week so you can see if any change happens.

Secondly, rather than eating out or ordering food, try to cook what you buy. Consider it an opportunity to spend quality time with your family by cooking and dining together. Prepare only what you need and use up the food that spoils first. For example, berries, when stored in refrigerator they can stay fresh for eight days, then they tend to mold and wilt. While if you refrigerate a tomato, they become soft and mealy, but if you store on counter, it should last a week. Consider portioning out meals accordingly to avoid over-serving and then leftovers can be used for another meal. There are many creative recipes such as smoothies, sauces, soups, stews and salads that can be a great choice for using leftover veggies, fruits, and grains.

Thirdly, store the foods properly: use your freezer as a waste avoider. For example, try freezing leftover bread. Make sure to preserve your food, especially meat, cheese, and tofu in air-tight, vacuum sealed containers or wrappers to keep them fresh as long as possible. Always put partially-used veggies in a clear container so you can see and use them. Try to separate fruits and vegetables as some fruits like banana can release gases which makes other fruits or vegetables ripen and spoil more quickly. Additionally, if food hasn't spoiled, don't throw it out.

Do you know the difference between "best before dates" and "expiry dates?"

For "best before dates" – you can buy and eat them even when the date has passed. Although the food may become less fresh, it is still safe to eat. Food may not be safe to eat, however, if it looks strange, smells strange, or has a broken seal. Use your senses: smell, sight, taste, and touch to determine whether food is safe to eat.

For "Expiry dates"– the only foods with actual "expiry dates" are medications, meal replacements and liquid supplements such as infant formula. Why? These foods are chemically formulated and only work for a specific time only. If the "expiry dates" on these items have passed, discard them.

If the ketchup bottle you have has not been opened yet, you can use it up to a year after the "best before date" on the label. The same is true for mustard, and dry pasta—you can use them well after their best before date, if it doesn't smell funny. Items like mayo should be consumed two to three months after the "best before date."

Closing your cottage for the winter can lead to a lot of avoidable food waste. Start consuming everything in your pantry and refrigerator by late summer if you know you will be closing your cottage over the Thanksgiving holiday, so you won't have to toss away bags of sugar and bottles of ketchup.

Some other tips to avoid food waste:

Buy non-perishable foods in bulk, but be sure you can eat them.

Store the food items on the basis on expiry and best before dates.

Throw a potluck party - be creative.

Share food with your neighbours.

Everyone eats. Therefore, everyone generates food waste. With a better understanding of what avoidable food waste is and why it occurs, you can save money, conserve resources, and reduce waste.

Aparna Gopala Krishnan is a student at Fleming College's Waste Resource Management – Environmental program and is doing a co-op placement as a recycling educator at the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Get The Word Out

Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com or call us at 705-457-1037.

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Breaking it down

ARTHO = JOINT; Itis = Inflammation

As a new patient at my clinic, I have everyone fill out an Initial Intake Form. A section of this is dedicated to health history. One of the check boxes that is frequently selected is marked, "Osteoarthritis?" As we review the form together and inquire about this selection, most people say something along the lines of, "well I have arthritis, some in my hands, my knees, maybe my back?"

KASSIE BRADLEY
Wellness Corner wih Kassie

The diagnosis of arthritis seems to be a confusing one. What exactly does it mean? What are the symptoms? Is there anything you can do about it to change your fate? Does it cause pain? To help answer these questions I am going directly to the Arthritis Society of Canada. This National Charity is dedicated to research, advocacy, information and support for those with arthritis.

Arthritis itself is a very broad term. In fact it encompasses a group of over 100 diseases which can affect any part of the body. The main characteristic of this disease is inflammation of the joints. When you think of inflammation, think of redness and swelling that lead to pain and stiffness. Arthritis is a chronic condition and there is no cure. It's very common, affecting one in five Canadians.

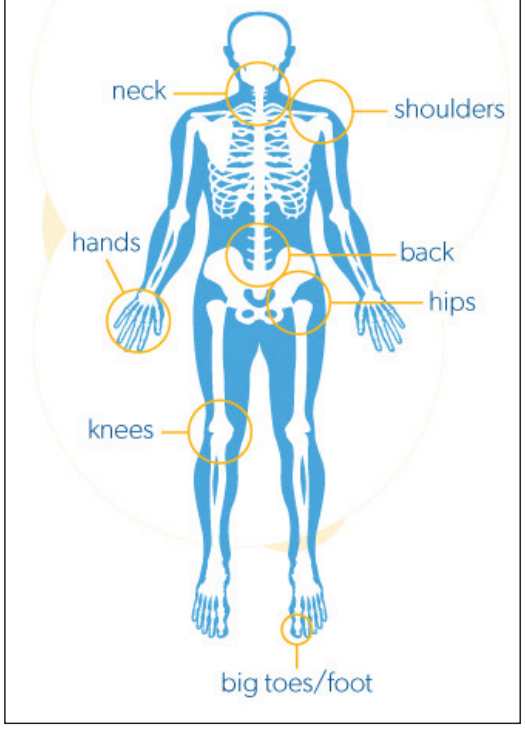
Arthritis can be broken down into two main categories; Osteoarthritis and Inflammatory Arthritis. Osteoarthritis is historically defined as "wear and tear." It's the breakdown of cartilage which is a connective tissue that protects the joints. The second, more aggressive type of arthritis is Inflammatory Arthritis, which are mostly a result of an Autoimmune Disorder. Your body is attacking its own healthy tissues. This is a systemic disorder, as it affects the whole body.

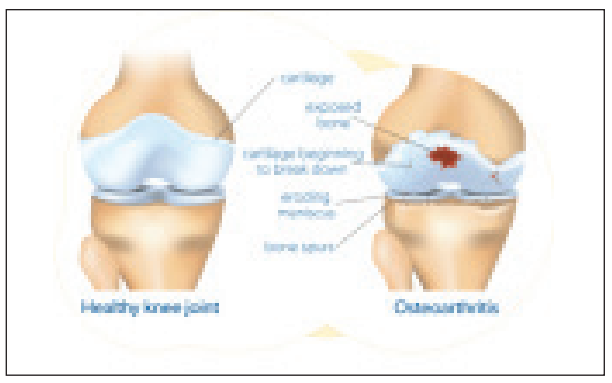
Think of cartilage like the rubber on your car tires. It's strong and flexible, absorbs shock and reduces friction with the road. Once the rubber on your tires wears out, what happens to your ride? It gets bumpy, rough, and causes damage to the underlying car structure. It's the same thing with your bones. As cartilage wears out; joint pain, reduced range of movement, stiffness, and swelling can occur.

When I was younger, I remember my Grandmother sitting in her chair, knitting for hours upon hours. I can still visualize her hands; thin, veiny, with large bumps in the joints. When I asked her why she knitted so much, she would say, "it helps the arthritis in my hands." Have you ever heard the term motion is lotion? A painful joint caused by Osteoarthritis doesn't mean you have to rest it. In fact, not enough movement can cause muscle weakness, which leads to worsening joint pain and stiffness. It's important to strengthen the muscles and connective tissue around the joints which increases blood flow and helps to promote normal joint mechanics. Physical activity can be as simple as vacuuming the house, walking to work, knitting, and even gardening. Do this gradually, and build your tolerance to help improve and maintain your mobility.

There are guidelines in place for the self management of arthritis. Lifestyle changes including increasing physical activity and reducing excess body weight can have the greatest impact on Osteoarthritis. If unsure where to start, check out the arthritis.ca website. They have self assessment tools and guidelines to help you become more knowledgeable. Next, speak with your healthcare provider. A qualified professional can work with you to develop a custom progressive exercise program. This is important because the frequency, intensity, type and duration will vary from person to person. The focus is range of motion, strength, and building endurance.

There are also various treatments available such as laser therapy and aquatic therapy, which can help treat symptoms, reduce pain and inflammation, and improve overall function. Even though arthritis is a chronic condition and the severity varies from person to person, there are many tools and therapies available to help you live comfortably. Knowledge is power so be proactive in your diagnosis and inform yourself to help you function at your best.





Top 10 things not to say at a wine tasting event

FULL DISCLOSURE: I have never been to a wine tasting event. But I have seen them on TV and in movies, so I get the gist of how they work. From what I gather, you need to look knowledgeable and sophisticated. And, if you must comment, you should do so with sophisticated sentences that showcase your vast knowledge of wine.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

With that in mind, here are my top 10 things not to say when attending a wine tasting event.

1. Uh, I'm pretty sure wine comes in a paper bag.
2. Imagine that! Wine in a bottle.
3. No need for the corkscrew. My dentures are locked in.
4. 2004? Do you have anything a little fresher?
5. Actually, I'd call that a purple wine.
6. Smells winey to me!
7. I'm positive it's pronounced gar-con.
8. I'm curious. What wine pairs well with nachos and beef jerky?
9. Can we get two straws?
10. Excuse me, can you direct me to the nearest lampshade?

Time travel

Like Dr. Who I freely move through alternate dimension
Shock of city versus frozen highlands calls attention:
South, the daffodils and crocus twirl their rainbow wings
North, still rare that colour intimates what April brings
Kind of marvellous that travellers get to shift between
Subtleties of season, all the rebirth, baby green
Wet it is both downtown and the snoozing woods and lakes
Nectar from the clouds to wash away all rotting flakes
Backyard birds suburban sound more urgent than those wild
Cardinals and robins wake to air already mild
Country chickadee and finch just now begin to voice
Search is on for nesting, how old nature can rejoice
Tomorrow with my backpack I shall venture back to cold
Though my app advises that the winter is on hold
Temps are rising nonetheless as time and space shift gear
Forecast is that May will come as it does every year

By Deborah J Reed

Writing on the Senior Side

Exploits away from Dodge (winter)

GAIL STELTER

Special to *County Life*

There is that law. You know, the one where when you have a big day ahead so you don't sleep the night before.

It's a hot Tuesday morning and we are taking a boat cruise from Hilton Head, South Carolina to Savannah, Georgia. Up at 7 a.m. Way too early for this old lady. The boat leaves at 9 a.m., and we are told to be there an hour before. The iconic red and white Hilton Head Harbour lighthouse greets us as we gather. We are first in line. We are first in the wrong line. It's not just us. The woman at the ticket kiosk gave incorrect information to several people. We have a lovely conversation with a couple from France. We find the correct line. We are near the end. I watch as the crew puts together a flimsy boarding ladder with a screw-on railing. Oh no, I don't want to climb up that. I do it. No room left in the open-air upstairs seating.

Turns out, it is very windy up there, and we discover the last to board are the first off! The two-hour intercoastal trip quickly passes. Our expectations are heightened as we dock in Savannah. The captain says the boat will be leaving at 3 p.m. for the return trip to Hilton Head. He says it will leave promptly at 3 p.m. The captain says, "Don't be late." Then the captain says not to worry if you miss it. He will come back for you. He will come back … at 3 p.m. … on Thursday.

It's a hop-on hop-off tour bus. Who can hop on a bus at our age? My titanium knees do not hop. Hold the railing and I slowly climb. No to hop off. Maybe with a little more sleep, I might have wanted to get off and explore. Well, probably not. It's too hot. Savannah is unique and we appreciate the centre squares and stately historic incredible homes. Thanks to those who advised us to read *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* prior to our trip. Our trolley driver, who is an English-accented senior, provides humourous anecdotes and insightful details. So, if you are considering a new retirement position, I believe the hop-on hop-off trolley company is hiring. You can even say, "Eh?" at the end of your sentences, and tourists will love it!

We arrive back at the dock in lots of time to lunch at The Shrimp Factory. I partake in ordering a fun peach drink. We are living large! Back on the boat, I am so tired, and I rest my head on the table. What will people think? Maybe they will think that peach drink got to me, or maybe that I had one too many. I think it would be amusing if they think that, but they probably just think I am a tired old lady. Such is life on the senior side. Once again, we were among the first to disembark and, once again, I am holding up the process because of that boarding ladder. Helpful staff make it easier. I guess they are used to seniors with such idiosyncrasies. They probably think that I am just a silly old lady, and here I am doing my best to live large: to live a young (that would be junior-senior) life. We arrive back at the condo at 5:30 p.m., and I go straight to bed. It seems living large is exhausting.

Walk right in, sit right down, and let the escape from Dodge (winter) roll on.

No signal, no signal. "The TV is not working."

"There is no internet. Instructions say Netgear80. There is no Netgear80 in the list."

After our week in Hilton Head, we are ready to enjoy the next month at the house we have rented in Kissimmee. The pool and hot tub look great, and the house is as expected but no Keurig, TV, or internet. These could be problematic. TV is our end-of-the-day entertainment. I am taking an online course. We broke our Keurig en route, and all we have are Tim Horton's coffee pods. Life can be rough for Canadians on the run from Dodge.

Contact the owner. Contact the property manager. No responses; leave messages.

M, the homeowner, replies, "That's never happened before."

J, the property manager, calls. "That's never happened before. Did you check the modem?"

We respond, "Where is the modem? We can't find it."

J responds, "That's never happened before."

She will check into it and call me back. Might as well unpack a few things. I am in the bedroom when Peter shouts, "The TV is working."

"I'll try the internet." Netgear80 appears. The password works. J calls back, and we tell her everything is working. Life is good.

Next up, Peter is off to find a Walmart and buy a new Keurig. I put away a few more things, and as I do so, I find the modem in the master bedroom behind a bedside table. Strange? Yes! I return back to the main room. No signal. No signal. It's gone. The TV and internet are gone. What is going on? I call J and leave another message.

Peter comes back. Walmart was a zoo. Packed. The traffic out there is crazy. What are we doing here in this Disney tourist nightmare? I tell him I found the modem, but the TV and internet are gone again. I call J again. Peter goes into the bedroom to check the modem.

It's back on again!

My name is Ellen Griswold. I am the wife of Clark Griswold in a TV movie, called *Christmas Vacation*. You may have watched it. Do you remember that scene when I am on the porch and have an "ah-ha" moment when I realize the porch light switch controls all the Christmas lights?

My name is Gail Stelter, and I am the wife of Peter in a reality happening called *Exploits away from Dodge on the Senior Side*. I am sitting on the couch in a house in Florida. Peter has just come out of the bedroom and I have an "ah-ha" moment when I realize the bedroom light switch controls the modem: TV and internet. J calls back, and I tell her the mystery has been solved. I ask her if she has even seen the movie Christmas Vacation. She pauses, and she pretends to be with me on this, but I know she just thinks that I am strange. I explain about the bedroom overhead light switch. She says, "That's never happened before."

Hello Haliburton. We are home, and it is snowing. I guess you didn't get the memo that winter is over. Striving to see the positive: I love spring in the Highlands, and now I won't miss its beginnings! I'll be watching for buds on the maple trees, my first robin and tulips! Spring is about to bloom, and my mind will not see winter. Spring into activities, senior style. When was the last time you looked for four-leaf clovers or jumped in the puddles? Okay, I do not want to jump in puddles, but I sure do smile when I see kids do it. So I will make spring on the senior side a return to outdoor easy living pursuits. Perhaps I will go for a walk or visit a nursery to walk among the plants and flowers. It's wonderful to be back from Dodge. Happy spring!

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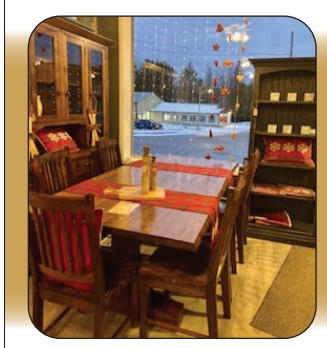

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Jr NBA

When: April 11 to May 31
Where: Archie Stouffer Elementary and Haliburton High
Local volunteers and Basketball Canada have teamed up to bring a curriculum-based youth basketball program to the county! Visit www.haliburtonbasketball.com for information.

Red Wolves Special Olympics Dinner Dance Fundraiser

When: Saturday, Apr. 15., Social 5 p.m. and dinner 6 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Come dressed in your best western themed gear. Enjoy beef on a bun with all the fixin's, potato salad, coleslaw, and our famous homemade desserts. D.J. Ron Murphy, photo booth, spot dances, Silent and country auctions, 50/50 draw. Tickets are $25 each - available at Up River Trading Company in Haliburton or Minden. Tickets are cash only in store.

Exhibition "Library of Dresses": Michelle Karch-Ackerman with Tanya Zaryski

April 15 to end of June
Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre 23 York St, Haliburton
Karch - Ackerman's "Library of Dresses" pairs with Zaryski's Rewilding paintings in a magic and wonder filled exhibition that honours creative play and intuition and joy in an approach to making. A must see show with a literary twist that will delight audiences of all ages!

Haliburton County Historical Society

When: Thursday Apr. 20
Where: Haliburton Museum, 66 Museum Rd,
Please join the Haliburton County Historical Society and guest speaker Dan Smith of the Haliburton Fish Hatchery to learn about the 18-month journey of the Haliburton Gold. Light refreshments will be served.

Small Glories

When: Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
This multi award winning duo brings to the stage folk-pop melody and instrumentation - songs of love, loss, and environment, delivered with soaring, interwoven vocals on various combinations of stomping clawhammer banjo, guitar and harmonica. Contact: Don Gage 705 286-5085, info@haliburtonfolk.com www.haliburtonfolk.com

Haliburton Highlands Paddlers' Open House

When: Sunday, Apr. 23, 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Do you enjoy paddling? Love connecting with new friends? Always wondered about paddling a Dragon Boat? Then join us at the Haliburton Highlands Paddlers' open house! You will learn all about our club, meet current members and get excited about joining us on the water this season. Everyone is welcome. Please visit haliburtonhighlandspaddlers.ca for more information.

HHSS alumni represent the community at Nationals

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Getting to compete in a national college curling championship is a huge achievement in itself, but being in it with two of your fellow HHSS alumni curlers on separate teams is quite another.

Jessica Byers and Jacob Dobson, now curling for Humber College, and Liam Little, now curling for Mowhawk College, each competed on their respective teams at the National Championship from Mar. 15 to 19, but reminisce on the days they were on the ice together in Haliburton.

"Earning the opportunity to play at a Canadian National Championship is an honour, and being able to experience that with two other Haliburton County curlers who earned their own spot on their respective teams, makes me feel very proud of our small community," Byers said.

Little shared similar sentiments and said the reunion was one of the highlights of the tournament.

"It's always nice getting to see them and share the ice once again like the good old days," Little said.

Dobson's Humber team came first in the gold medal game against the SAIT Trojans from Alberta.

Little's Mowhawk team came third at the championship, ending the competitive curling season bringing home a bronze medal in his first national tournament.

Jacob Dobson, from left, Liam Little, and Jessica Byers all competed on their respective teams in both the provincial and national college curling championships this winter. The HHSS alumni are pictured after the championship. /Photo submitted

"The experience was one to remember that's for sure. It was my first nationals and being able to walk away with a podium finish is pretty cool," Little said.

Byers' Humber team was at the top of seven round robin games and competed for the bronze medal.

"Although we fell short and lost the bronze medal game, we had a lot to be proud of. Our whole team won first team all-star honours," Byers said.

The three now college students from Haliburton have an extensive history playing together.

Byers and Dobson started in the Haliburton Curling Club youth program together in Grades 4 and 5 while Little was curling in Minden.

"We all started playing together when we entered high school, and have been playing with, and against each other since, through highschool championships, Under-20 and Under-18 competitive curling championships, mixed doubles competitions and now again with our college teams," Byers said.

Both Byers' and Little's teams felt pressure going into the medal games at the championship.

"The final game we played was very suspenseful knowing that we weren't guaranteed a medal. Our team played really well, and we got the job done," Little said.

Byers' team also competed for bronze.

"We played well in the playoff games, but like in all sports, sometimes it comes down to if the other team can make a perfect shot at the right times, and that's exactly what our oppositions did," Byers said.

The three HHSS alumni are taking with them an experience they will always cherish, and they look forward to next year's season.

"Competing alongside Liam and Jacob means so much because we know we have each other's back and is an amazing feeling knowing all the work we've put in coming from a small town has paid off," Byers said.

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Apr. 13: Diners Club noon $15/person Call Denise Butler to book 705-448-8865 Open 2 to 6 p.m. HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Apr. 14: Pool 2 p.m. Chicken fingers & fries 5 to 8 p.m.
Apr. 15: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3 p.m.
Apr. 15: L.A. Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m.
Apr. 17/18: Closed
Apr. 19: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/ conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Please reach out ASAP if you want to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!

Former Red Hawk continues to soar

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

It's up up and away for Jacob Dobson as he continues his streak of significant curling wins. On March 19, the young athlete won gold at the Canadian College national competition in Sudbury. This accolade is added to his recent wins of the Canadian Junior Cup, the Swiss Junior Cup, and the Ottawa Valley Curling Association Superspiel. And that's just from this season.

Dobson won his first provincial title as a Red Hawk. "Ever since I started curling, I've dreamt about winning a Canadian title," he said. "It still feels surreal to think now I have."

The Haliburton County local is currently studying at Humber College, and specializing in justice studies. Through the many competitions, he noted that his roots are always tied back to the Haliburton Highlands. "It takes years of building up to these events," he said, "all of which started back in Haliburton with the Youth Curling Program."

Dobson intends to keep pushing forward with the sport in any way he can. "With the college side, I have a few more seasons of eligibility and hope to go back and defend our CCAA [Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association] title," he said.

He noted that by winning the CCAA this past year, the team earned a spot at the Pointsbet Invitational. The event - held in Oakville next September - is one of the largest curling events in the country.

While the awards seem to come naturally to Dobson and his team, the sport takes a tremendous amount of dedication, perseverance, and energy. "This season my teams have focused on spending a lot of time in the gym with our personal trainers and working with our sports psychologists," shared Dobson. He also noted that there is an abundance of time on the road for the game, sharing that the final game of the past tournament was his 78th game of the season.

Dobson encouraged others to get into the sport, noting that while it may not always be easy, he believes it's always worth it. "My biggest suggestion for people just getting into the sport of curling is to make sure you have fun playing, and practice makes perfect," he said.

When asked about next steps, Dobson alluded to the journey ahead. "I will continue to compete on the competitive men's circuit, more details will be released publicly later," he shared.

While he continues to forge ahead, Dobson still makes the time to celebrate the successes along the way. "This team has put in so much work, and the success we've found this season, especially winning the CCAA gold, helps to make all that work feel even more worth it," he said.

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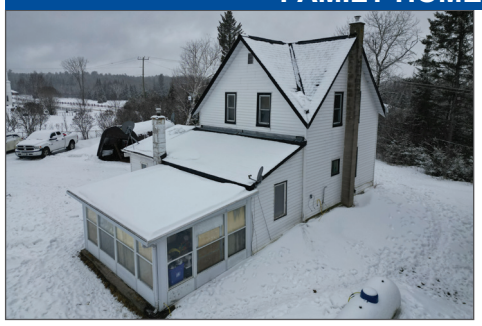

3.7 acres with just over 350' of frontage on a creek, with a deep swiming area. Great outbuildings.The 2 storey farmhouse includes 3 bedrooms and a 4 piece bathroom. Shingles were replaced in 2014, the propane furnace is a few years old, new flooring installed this year.

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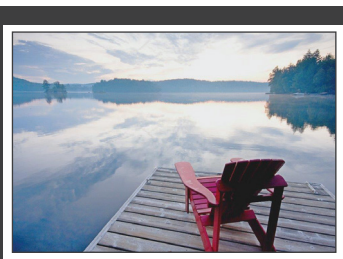
Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Horseshoe Lake Rd $674,900

- Spacious 4 Beds 2 Baths country home
- Situated on 3 acres with ample privacy
- Walkout basement-potential for in law suite
- 5 min to public access-Horseshoe Lake



Andy Campbell
854-0292

Co-Housing

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754-1932

Kennisis Lake– Private Retreat

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Haliburton Condominium $669,000

- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
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- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails

Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

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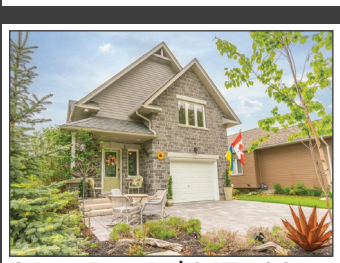

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- Open concept with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
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Brandon Nimigon***
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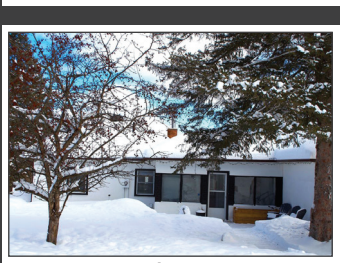

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McLeod St $550,000

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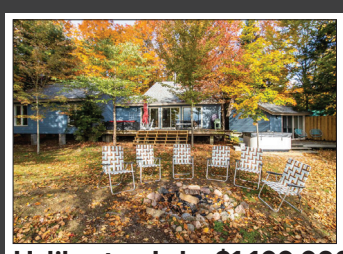

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Haliburton Lake $1,199,900

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Melanie Vigrass*
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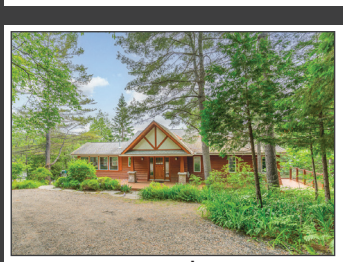

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A chipmunk snacks on a peanut. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A chickadee perches on a branch. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A curious squirrel. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Four curious deer stand in the last of this year's snow. /Submitted by Kelly Elliot

A fisher plays peek-a-boo. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

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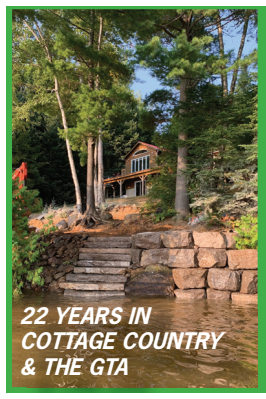

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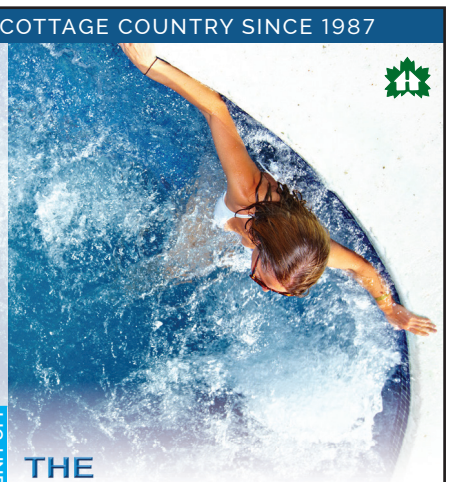

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

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Dysart council balks at opening up municipal roads for ATV travel

All-Ontario Bound
Red Hawks fly to London, Ont. to compete with best high school hockey teams

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Without volunteers, local agency wouldn't be able to reach out to seniors

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Doctors' clinic, housing complex planned

Developer proposes 100-unit retirement community between Industrial Park Rd. and Halbiem Cres.

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Plans to build a commercial plaza in the area where the late Dr. Harry Good's house sits overlooking the river leading to Grass Lake have been abandoned but a new proposal would see the construction of a new doctors' clinic that would be connected to a 100-unit retirement community.

In February last year a proposal for a 64,000 square foot commercial building on 9.5 acres was put forward by the Otis Group of Companies out of Toronto. A public meeting in the Dysart et al council chambers was packed with people voicing their opposition to having the area rezoned from residential to commercial. The most frequent objection was that Haliburton did not need more retail space outside of the downtown core when there were empty storefronts on the main street. The property was, however, rezoned and then the proposal was abandoned. Philip Otis did not return a phone call from the *Echo* asking for an explanation.

Last week, a new developer, Dr. Daniel Perlitz of Dravidian

See **Doctors** *page 4*

MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

When Irish eyes are singing
Margaret Jeske and her Gentlemen of Song delighted the crowd at the St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Friday. As dozens of people filled the Haliburton Legion to enjoy Irish stew and biscuits to raise money for the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary, the men's choir brought a touch of the Emerald Isle to the festivities with their rendition of traditional Irish music.

Maple syrup producers get tax reprieve

Industrial assessment would have put an end to 'mom and pop' operations

JERRY GROZELLE
Staff Reporter

Local maple syrup producers are breathing a collective sigh of relief. The provincial government has announced that it will not implement the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's recommendation to tax maple syrup producers at industrial tax levels.

The MPAC recommendation would have meant a huge increase in taxes to maple syrup producers and put most "mom and pop" operations out of business.

"We have taken immediate steps to address the concerns of maple syrup producers," said Finance Minister Greg Sorbara in a news release issued Wednesday. "We are listening to people's concerns about the importance of consistent and timely application of assessment and classification policies by the MPAC."

Maple syrup producers faced a change in classification from farm to industrial for the 2004 taxation year.

"We will continue to work with these groups and Ontarians to come up with property tax assessment solutions that work," Sorbara said.

The news release said that the government is calling on MPAC, maple syrup producers and representatives of the broader farming community to develop mutually-acceptable criteria for deciding what constitutes industrial production of maple syrup.

"The government will also work with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other agricultural groups to establish clarity in agricultural definitions for the purpose of property classification, said Steve Peters, Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Tom Dawson has a small family maple syrup production called Wintergreen on Haliburton County Road 1 near Gelert.

"That needed to happen," was his initial comment when he learned that the government had decided not to change the taxation structure as planned. "It was causing all kinds of problems."

Dawson said he has spoken at length to policy directors at MPAC. "They have tried this

See **Assessment** *page 2*

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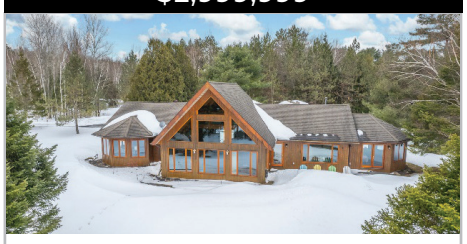

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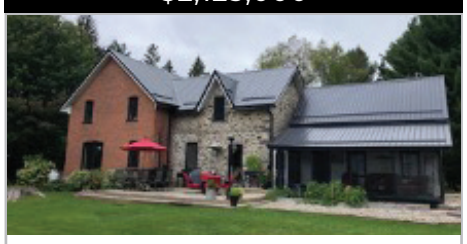

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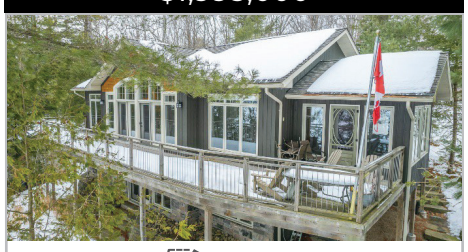

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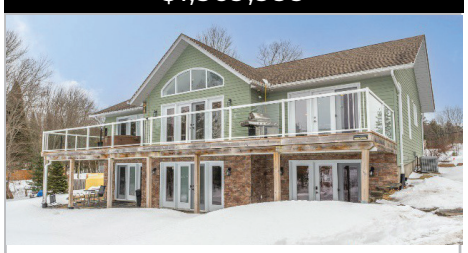

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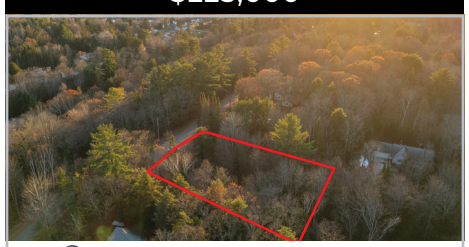

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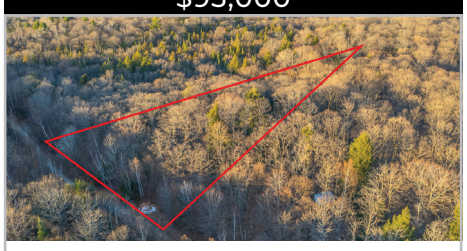

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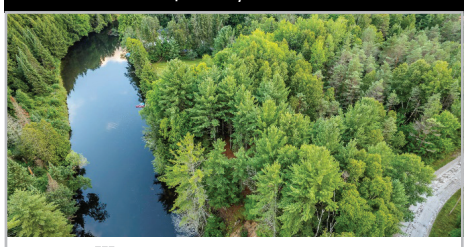

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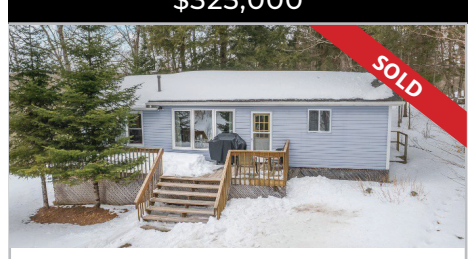

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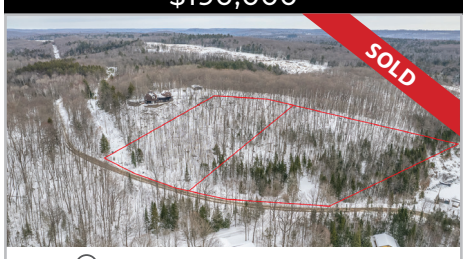

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